

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A attributed debugging comprising:
a debugger that facilitates debugging of a computer software application; and,
an expression evaluator that employs an attribute associated with the computer software application to present debug information associated with the computer software application to a developer.
2. The system of claim 1, the expression evaluator evaluates an expression associated with a particular programming language.
3. The system of claim 2, the programming language comprising at least one of C#, J# and Visual Basic.Net.
4. The system of claim 2, comprising a plurality of expression evaluators, each expression evaluator associated with a particular programming language.
5. The system of claim 1, the expression evaluator invokes an overridden implementation of a ToString method to facilitate presentation of debug information.
6. The system of claim 5, the expression evaluator employs a result of the overridden ToString method as a value to be displayed for an object, field and/or property.
7. The system of claim 1, the attribute employed to determine at least one of how and whether a type or member is displayed.
8. The system of claim 7, the attribute employing an enumeration.

9. The system of claim 8, one enumeration value associated with an indication that the type or member should not be displayed to the developer.
10. The system of claim 8, one enumeration value associated with an indication that if a type is hierarchical, it should be expanded by default.
11. The system of claim 8, one enumeration value associated with an indication that a type should not be expanded by default.
12. The system of claim 8, one enumeration value associated with an indication that a target element itself should not be shown, but should instead be automatically expanded to have its member(s) displayed.
13. The system of claim 1, the attribute employed to what is displayed for a class and/or field.
14. The system of claim 13, an argument to the attribute comprising a string that is displayed in a value column for an instance of the class and/or field.
15. The system of claim 14, the argument associated with one of a field, a property and a method.
16. The system of claim 1, further comprising an attribute cache directory that stores an attribute associated with the computer software application, expression evaluator employing the stored attribute to present debug information.
17. A method facilitating attributed debugging comprising:
determining whether a process has an attribute attached; and,
employing the attribute to display debug information, if the process has an attribute attached.

18. The method of 17, further comprising at least one of the following:
 - determining whether a `ToString` method has been overridden; and,
 - invoking the overridden `ToString` method to facilitate debugging, if the `ToString` method has been overridden.
19. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 17.
20. A data packet transmitted between two or more computer components that facilitates debugging, the data packet comprising:
 - an attribute, the attribute providing information associated debugging of a computer software application.
21. A computer readable medium storing computer executable components of an attributed debugging system comprising:
 - a debugger component that facilitates debugging of a computer software application; and,
 - an expression evaluator component that employs an attribute associated with the computer software application to present debug information associated with the computer software application to a developer.
22. An attributed debugging system comprising:
 - means for storing an attribute associated with a computer software application; and,
 - means for employing the stored attribute to present debug information associated with the computer software application to a developer.